GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:396
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2017
Complaints regarding Rotten Foodgrains
Tripathi Shri Sharad

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received a number of complaints from States with regard to storage and supply of rotten and inferior quality foodgrains;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;
(c) whether any system has been evolved to ensure quality of foodgrains before and during storage for the purpose of supply to various States including Uttar Pradesh under Public Distribution System; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)
(a) &(b) No complaint has been received from the State Govt. during 2016-17 and 2017-18 till date, with regard to storage and supply of rotten and inferior quality foodgrains to Public Distribution System.
(c) & (d) Yes Madam, the steps taken by the Government to ensure good quality foodgrains during procurement, storage and distribution are at Annex.
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ANNEXURE
ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) & (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 396 TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH JULY, 2017 IN LOK SABHA.
Steps taken by Government to ensure Quality Control of Foodgrains during Procurement, Storage and Distribution
There are well defined quality control norms specified by the Government for procurement of good quality foodgrains for distribution under TPDS. Prior to commencement of Rabi and Kharif Procurement Seasons, Department of Food & Public Distribution formulates uniform specifications for procurement of good quality foodgrains for Central Pool. These uniform specifications are circulated to FCI, all State Governments and their agencies with the instructions to ensure that foodgrains strictly conforming to these uniform specifications should be procured by them.
Facilities for cleaning and drying of foodgrains are to be provided at procurement centre's by State Governments so that good quality foodgrains well within the uniform specifications are procured by FCI and State agencies. Moisture meter, physical analysis kits, etc. are also to be provided at the procurement centres. There are instructions that proper stitching and stenciling on grain bags should be carried out. Dunnage material, tarpaulin and other materials for safe storage of procured food stocks are also to be provided. The Quality Control officers of FCI and State Governments have to regularly monitor the quality of foodgrains at the time of procurement.
Procured foodgrains are to be stored in covered godowns as well as under CAP (Covered & Plinth) storage (wheat and paddy only) for varying periods. During storage, scientific codes of practices for safe storage of foodgrains are to be adopted by FCI and State agencies. Details of the steps to be taken by storage agencies are as under:
(i) All godowns are constructed as per specifications.
(ii) Foodgrains are stored by adopting proper scientific code of storage practices.
(iii) Adequate dunnage materials such as wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are used to check migration of moisture from the floor to the foodgrains.
(iv) Fumigation covers, nylon ropes, nets and insecticides for control of stored grain insect pests are provided in all the godowns.
(v) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are carried out regularly and timely in godowns for the control of stored grain insect pests.
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(vi) Effective rat control measures, both in covered godowns as well as in CAP storage are used.
(vii) Foodgrains in 'Cover and Plinth' (CAP) storage are stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates are used as dunnage material. Stacks are properly covered with specifically fabricated low-density black polythene water-proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.
(viii) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are undertaken by qualified and trained staff and all senior officers. The health of the foodgrains is monitored at regular intervals by a system of checks and super checks at different levels. Following Checks and Super checks are conducted in the godowns by FCI to ensure proper preservation of foodgrains in the storage.
a) Fortnightly inspection of stocks on 100% basis by Technical Assistant.
b) Monthly inspection by Manager(QC)
c) Quarterly inspection by AGM(QC)
d) Super Checks by Regional, Zonal and FCI Hqrs Squads.
(xi) The principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO) is followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
(x) Only covered rail wagons are used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.
(xi) Damage Monitoring Cells have been set up at District, Regional and Zonal levels to regularly monitor quality of stocks and reduce damages.

Similarly, at the time of distribution of foodgrains to States/UTs, there is a well defined procedure of joint inspection/sampling of the stocks by State Government authority and FCI to ensure that only good quality foodgrains conforming to Food Safety Standards are issued under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare schemes. This department has issued following instructions to Food Secretaries of all State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and FCI to ensure supply of good quality foodgrains under the TPDS:

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(i) Only good quality foodgrains free from insect infestation and conforming to Food Safety Standards are to be issued under TPDS.

(ii) Ample opportunities are to be provided to the State Government to check the quality of foodgrains prior lifting the foodgrains stocks from FCI godowns.

(iii) Samples of foodgrains are to be collected and sealed from the stocks of foodgrains to be issued under the TPDS jointly by FCI and State Food & Civil Supplies Department.

(iv) An officer not below the rank of Inspector is to be deputed from State Government to take the delivery of foodgrains stocks from FCI godowns.

(v) Regular inspection to check the quality of foodgrains is to be carried out by the officers of State Government and surprise checks are carried out by the officers of Quality Control Cell of the Ministry.

(vi) It is the responsibility of the concerned State Government/ UT Administration to ensure that during transportation and storage at different stages in the distribution chain, the foodgrains retain the required quality specifications.

(vii) The State Government, where the decentralized procurement is in operation, should ensure that the quality of foodgrains issued under TPDS and other welfare schemes should meet the desired standards under the Food Safety and Standards Act.

Wherever incidence of poor quality of foodgrains, are brought to the notice, immediate action has to be taken against the officials found responsible. Trainings are also organized by Government of India for the officials of State Governments/UTs engaged in handling of foodgrain by IGMRI, Hapur & its field stations and Quality Control Cells.

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